

Vol. XI. No. 8

NOVEMBER, 1917

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# The Playground

## War-Camp Community-Recreation Service

The spirit with which our soldiers leave America, and their efficiency on the battle fronts of Europe, will be vitally affected by the character of the environment surrounding our military training camps.

*Woodrow Wilson*

Twenty-five Cents a Copy

Two Dollars a Year

# The Playground

Published monthly at Cooperstown, New York

for the

Playground and Recreation Association of America

1 Madison Avenue, New York City

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## Membership

Any person contributing five dollars or more shall be a member  
of the Association for the ensuing year

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### WAR-CAMP COMMUNITY-RECREATION SERVICE

"The Commission on Training Camp Activities asks the Playground and Recreation Association of America to be responsible for the work of stimulating and aiding communities in the neighborhood of training camps to develop and organize their social and recreational resources in such a way as to be of the greatest possible value to the officers and soldiers in the camps."

*Voted by the Commission on Training Camp  
Activities, May 5, 1917*

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| (Field)                          |                         |
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| (Porter)                         |                         |
| Polyanna and the Boy             | Sally Hamlin            |
| (Porter)                         |                         |
| Columbus (Joaquin Miller)        | William Sterling Battis |
| Landing of the Pilgrims (Hemans) | William Sterling Battis |
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|                                  | William Sterling Battis |

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## War Recreation Service

*A Country-wide Experiment  
in Cooperation*

In the October issue of the Playground are de-  
scribed the aims, purposes and some of the ac-  
complishments of the work undertaken by the  
Playground and Recreation Association of  
America at the request of the War Department  
Commission on Training Camp Activities, in  
helping cities near the camps organize their re-  
sources for the benefit of the soldiers in their  
free time.

**Price, 25 Cents**

## A Letter from President Wilson

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

16 August, 1917

*My Dear Mr. Lee:*

Mr. Fosdick has told me of the excellent work of the Playground and Recreation Association of America in conjunction with the War Department Commission on Training Camp Activities, and I am writing to express my keen appreciation of the value of this unique and excellent service. The spirit with which our soldiers leave America, and their efficiency on the battle fronts of Europe, will be vitally affected by the character of the environment surrounding our military training camps. I understand that your Association finds it necessary to raise funds to carry on your work, and I earnestly hope that you will be successful in this endeavor. Perhaps the local Chambers of Commerce in the cities and towns throughout the country could be appealed to with entire propriety to assist you in this matter. In any event, let me assure you of my warm support.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) WOODROW WILSON

Mr. Joseph Lee  
101 Tremont Street  
Boston, Massachusetts

## A Brief Statement of What the War-Camp Community-Recreation Service Is Trying to Do

ABBIE CONDIT, Assistant, Playground and Recreation Association  
of America

**T**O make the cities near the training camps the best possible places for the soldiers in their free time; to organize the social and recreational life of the communities so that it shall contribute to the mental, moral and physical efficiency of the men in the training camps, is the task placed upon the Playground and Recreation Association of America by the War Department Commission on Training Camp Activities.

No matter how attractive the facilities at camp, or how comprehensive the program of activities planned for their entertainment, it is natural that after the routine and monotony of camp life, after its "dress, and drill and mess," the soldiers in their free hours should rush to the nearest cities where the lights are bright, the streets full of new faces, and everything is different from camp. To see to it that the recreation provided in these cities shall be clean and wholesome, that there shall be channels opened through which the soldiers may find substitutes for the normal relationships of life from which they have been suddenly cut off, to make it possible for them to meet the townspeople, and to provide an antidote for homesickness, depression, and the social loneliness which is so real a menace to the moral strength of the men—all these are phases of the problems which must be met by the community organizers who are being sent by the Association to stir the cities near the camps to a realization of their responsibility toward the men who are their guests.

In this work of fostering and conserving the men's natural relations to the world outside, it is the task of the community organizer, through the organization of a central committee, with a number of sub-committees, to coordinate the activities of each organization and group of people touching and controlling in any way the resources of the community. Churches and fraternal orders are being stimulated to entertain their members in the camps. Socials and entertainments are being arranged where the soldiers may meet the young women of the community. Entertainment of the soldiers in the homes of the citizens is one of the most popular features of the hospitality program in the various cities. Public resources of the cities such as swimming pools, shower baths and baseball fields have been placed at the disposal of the men. Provision is being made for the comfort of the soldiers and their guests through the installation of comfort stations and drinking fountains, and through the listing of available sleeping accommodations. Rest rooms and "khaki clubs" are being established; directories of points of interest, hotels, and lodging houses are being published. Automobile rides for the soldiers, community sings and band concerts are being given. In every way possible the cities' resources are being made available for the soldiers in their free time, in an effort to add to their comfort and happiness, and to send them out with the feeling that American cities and the American people are standing back of them.

Nearly eighty communities are being helped in their efforts to play hostess to the thousands of men in khaki in camp near them. Over eighty workers sent out by the Playground and Recreation Association of America are now at work in the cities, blazing a new trail in the conduct of the world war.



*Methodist Church, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania*

MOTHERS ARE POPULAR IN THE SOLDIERS' RECREATION ROOMS



WAR CAMP COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICE



*Gettysburg, Pennsylvania*

MR. AND MRS. McALLISTER ENTERTAINING YOUNG SOLDIERS



WAR CAMP COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICE



*Chattanooga, Tennessee*

BOYD FAMILY ENTERTAINING SOLDIERS AT THEIR HOME SUNDAY AFTERNOON

WAR CAMP COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICE



*Chattanooga, Tennessee*

GIRLS ENTERTAINING SOLDIERS IN THEIR OWN HOME

WAR CAMP COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICE



*Country Club, Chattanooga, Tennessee*

SATURDAY EVENING DINNER

WAR CAMP COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICE



Country Club, Chattanooga, Tennessee  
SATURDAY NIGHT DANCE—WOMEN HOSTESSES TO OFFICERS

WAR CAMP COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICE



*Presbyterian Church, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania*

A SOCIAL EVENING IN THE CHURCH

WAR CAMP COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICE



*Gettysburg, Pennsylvania*

HOSPITAL TENTS



*Chattanooga, Tennessee*

LADIES OF CHATTANOOGA HOSTESSES TO SICK  
SOLDIERS FOR AN AFTERNOON'S MOTORING





*Gettysburg, Pennsylvania*

**TAKING SICK SOLDIERS FOR AUTOMOBILE RIDE**



WAR CAMP COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICE



*Gettysburg, Pennsylvania*

OFFICERS' FAMILIES MAKING THEIR HOME IN THE  
ACADEMY, USUALLY CLOSED FOR THE SUMMER



*Gettysburg, Pennsylvania*

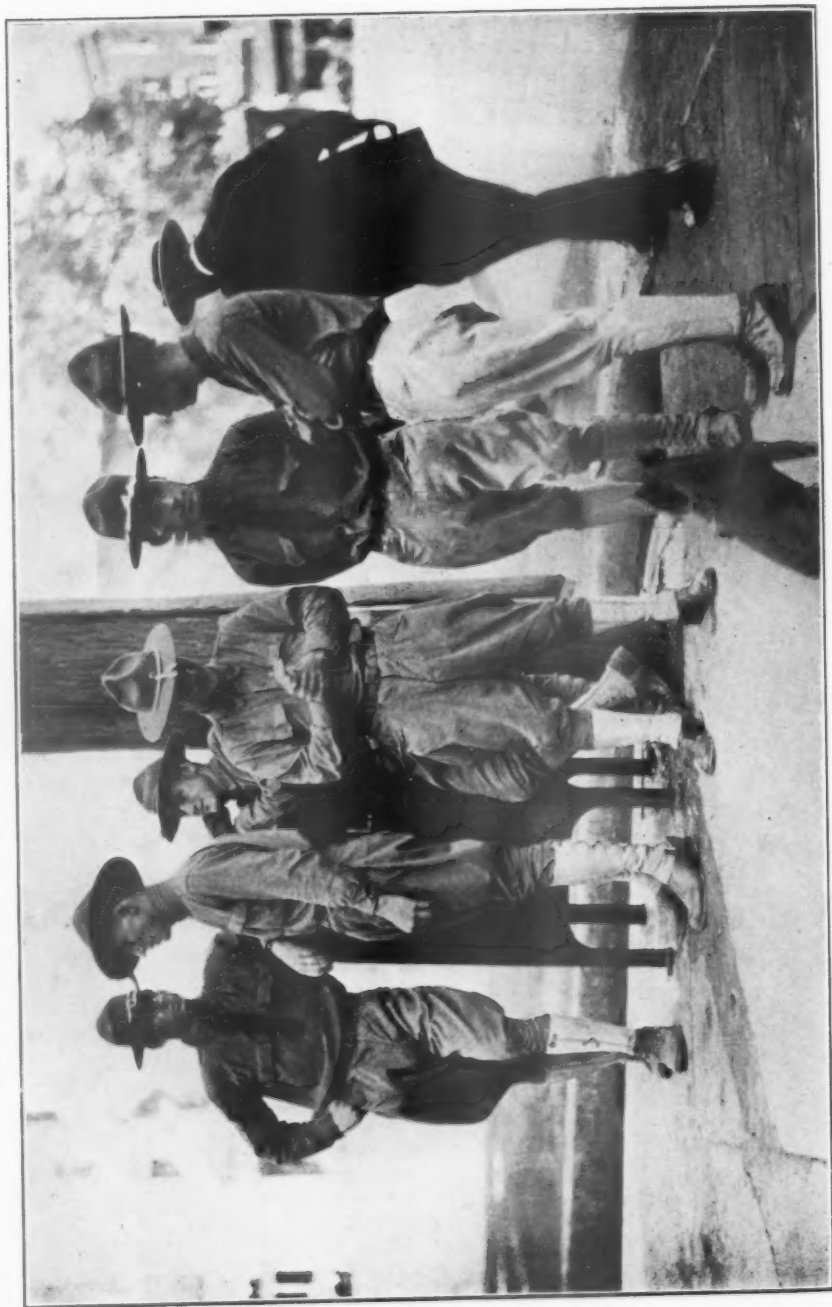
ACADEMY USUALLY CLOSED FOR SUMMER, OPENED  
THIS YEAR AS A HOME FOR OFFICERS AND THEIR  
FAMILIES



*Chattanooga, Tennessee*

SOLDIERS WELCOMED AT CHURCH

WAR CAMP COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICE



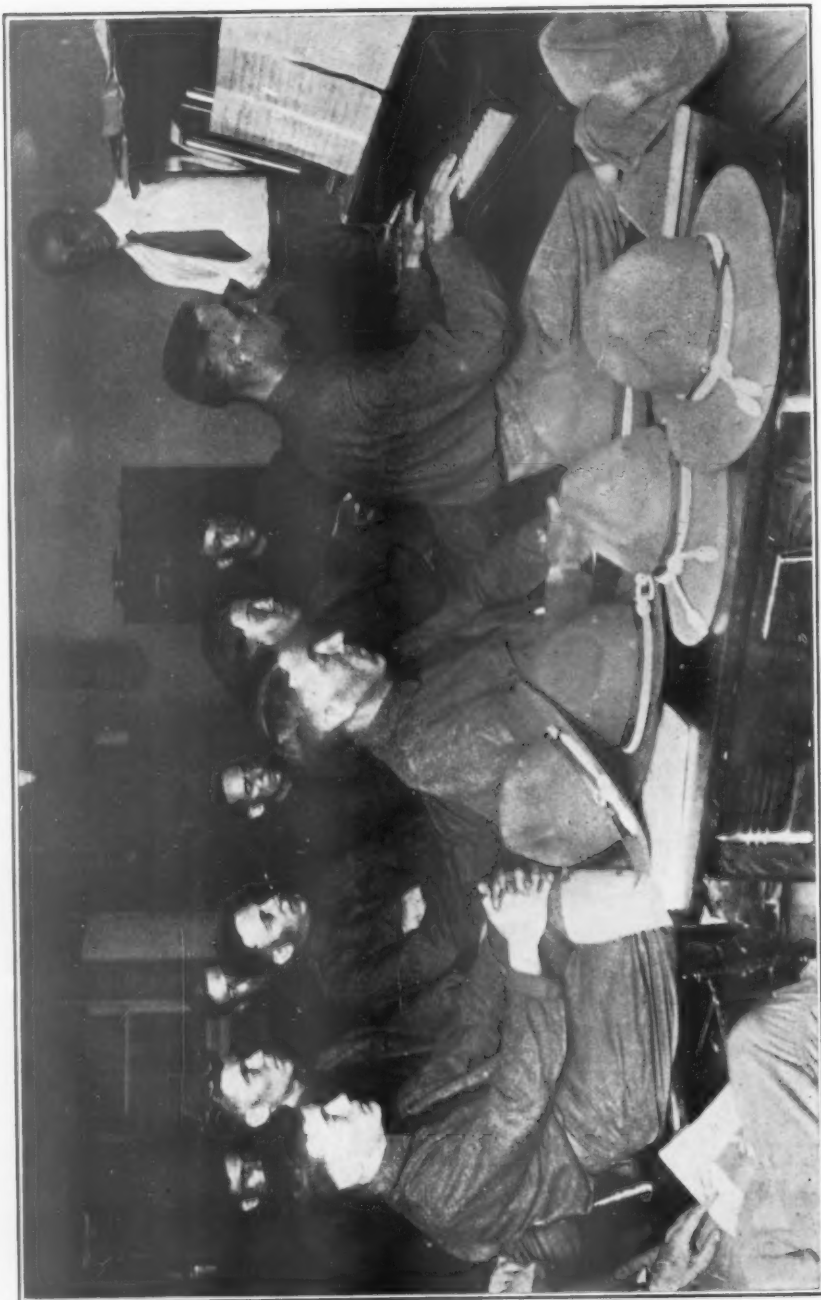
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

ON THE STREET CORNER

WAR CAMP COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICE

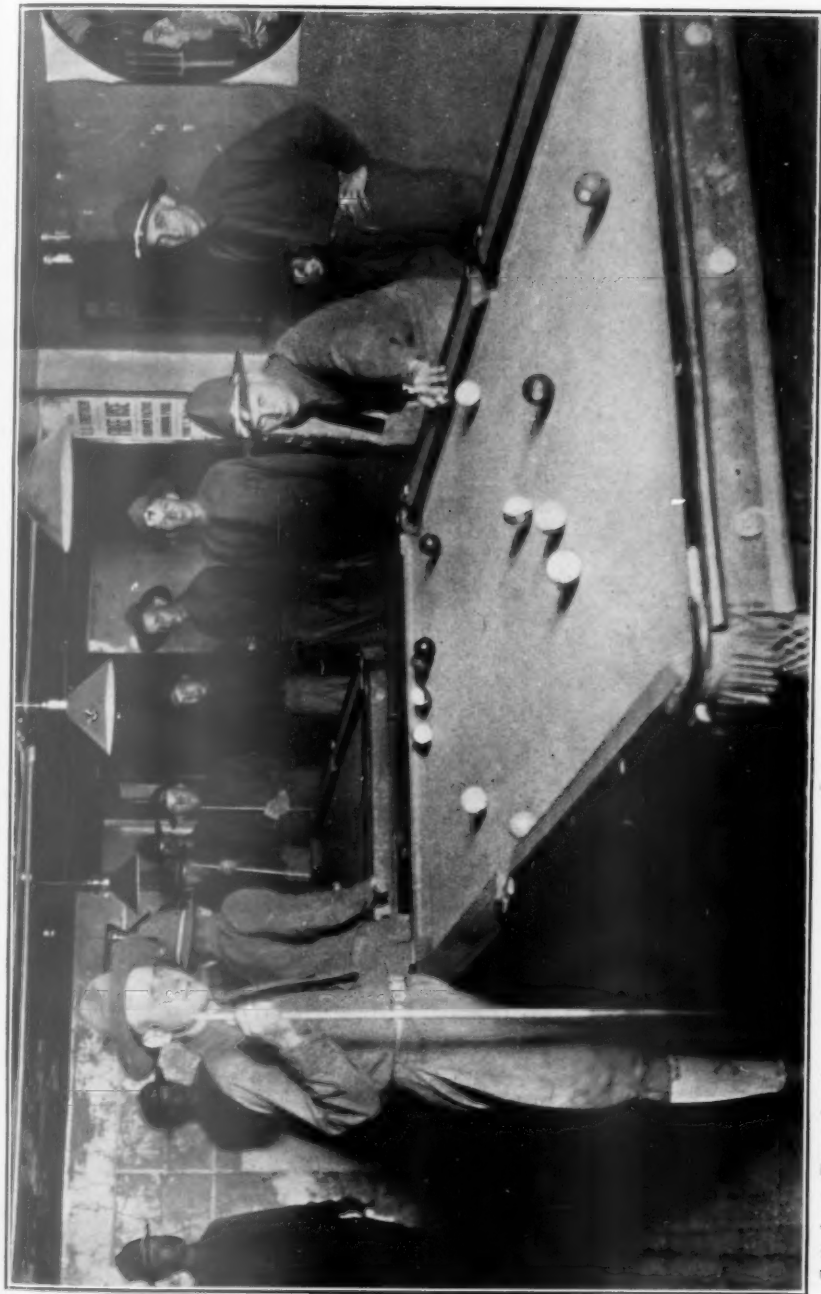


*Red Cross Room, Lutheran Church, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania*  
**PLAYING CHECKERS**



*Red Cross Room, Lutheran Church, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania*  
AROUND THE PIANO

WAR CAMP COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICE

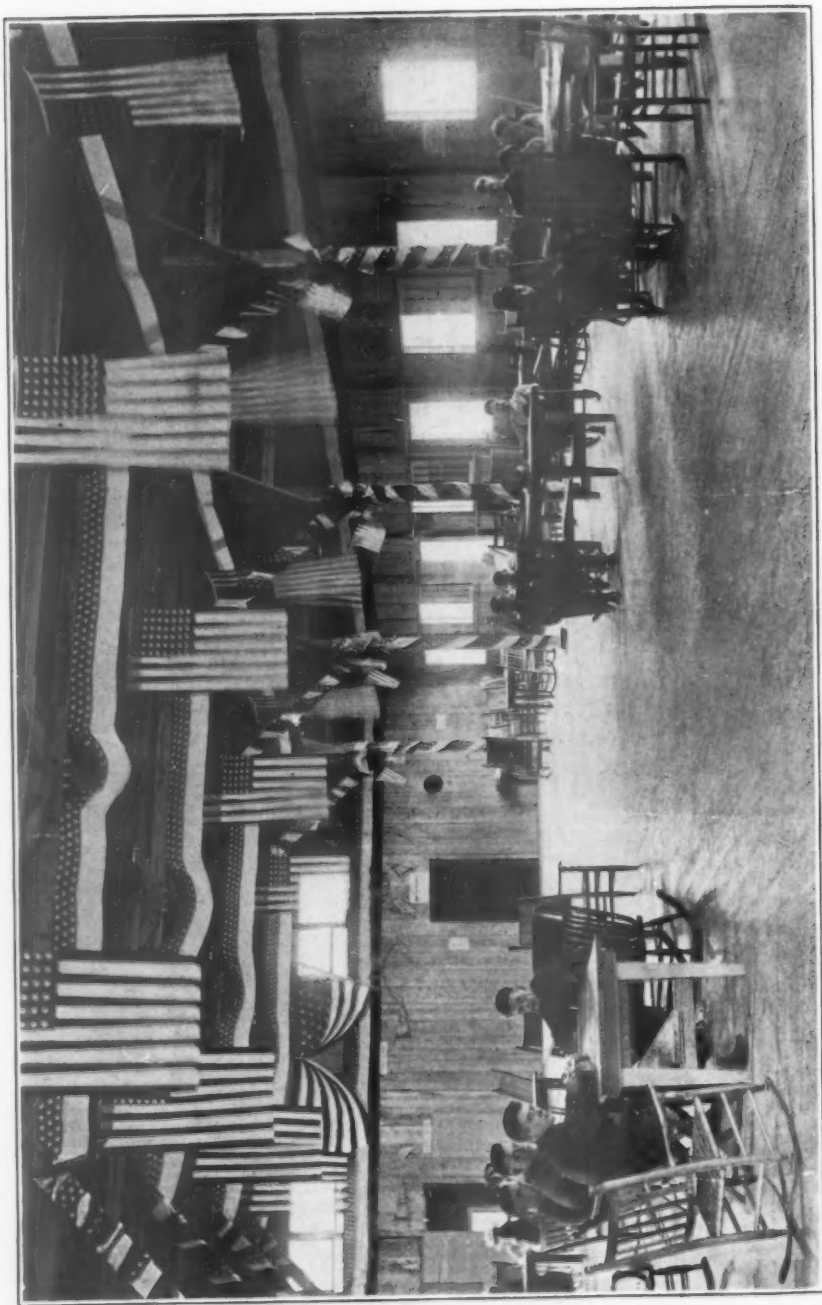


*Geltysburg, Pennsylvania*

POOL ROOM FOR SOLDIERS



WAR CAMP COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICE



Junction City, Kansas

A SPECIAL COMMUNITY CLUB BUILT FOR THE SOLDIERS



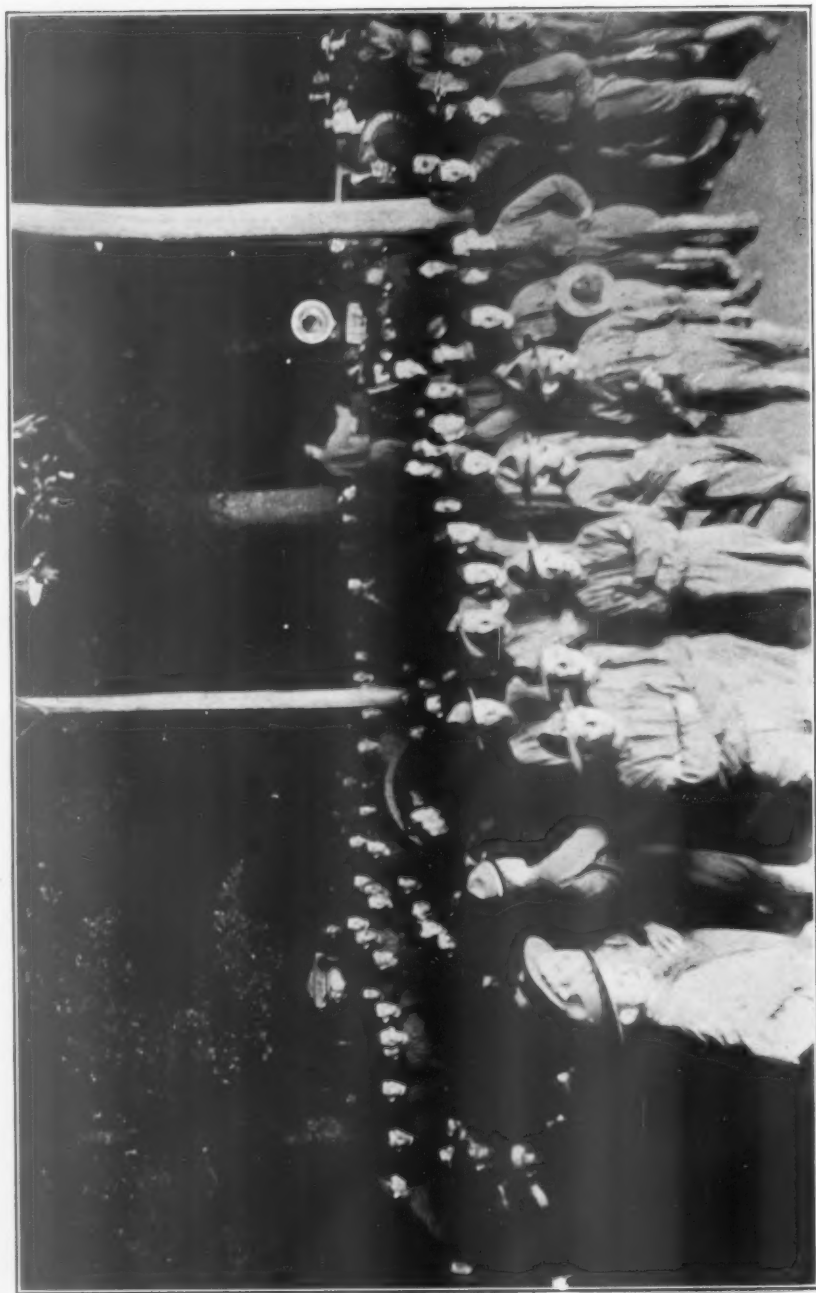
WAR CAMP COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICE



*St. Xavier's, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania*

WEEKLY VAUDEVILLE CONDUCTED BY FATHER BOYLE

WAR CAMP COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICE



*Chattanooga, Tennessee*

BAND CONCERT GIVEN EVERY TUESDAY BY WOMEN'S COUNCIL OF NATIONAL DEFENSE

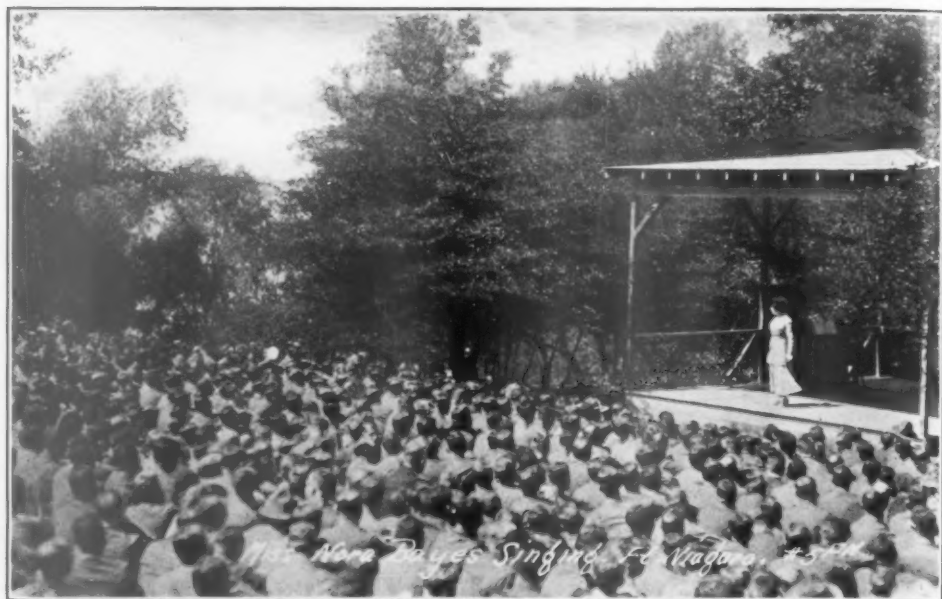
WAR CAMP COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICE



*Recreation Room, Baptist Church, Chattanooga, Tennessee*

HUNDREDS OF SOLDIERS ATTENDING CHURCH SOCIAL

WAR CAMP COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICE



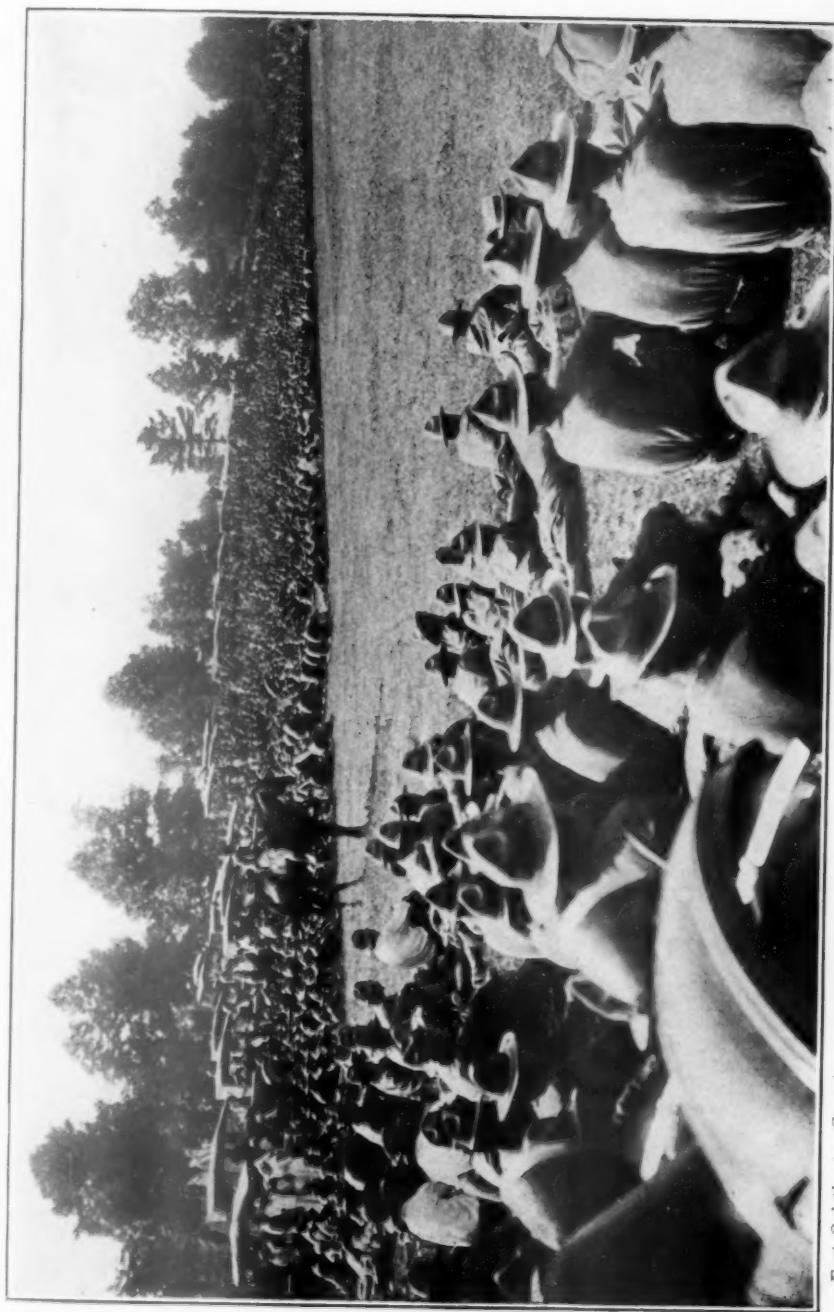
*Fort Niagara, New York*

THE COMMUNITY ORGANIZER SECURED MISS NORA BAYES TO SING FOR THE SOLDIERS WITHIN THE CAMP AT FORT NIAGARA



*First Baptist Church, Chattanooga, Tennessee*

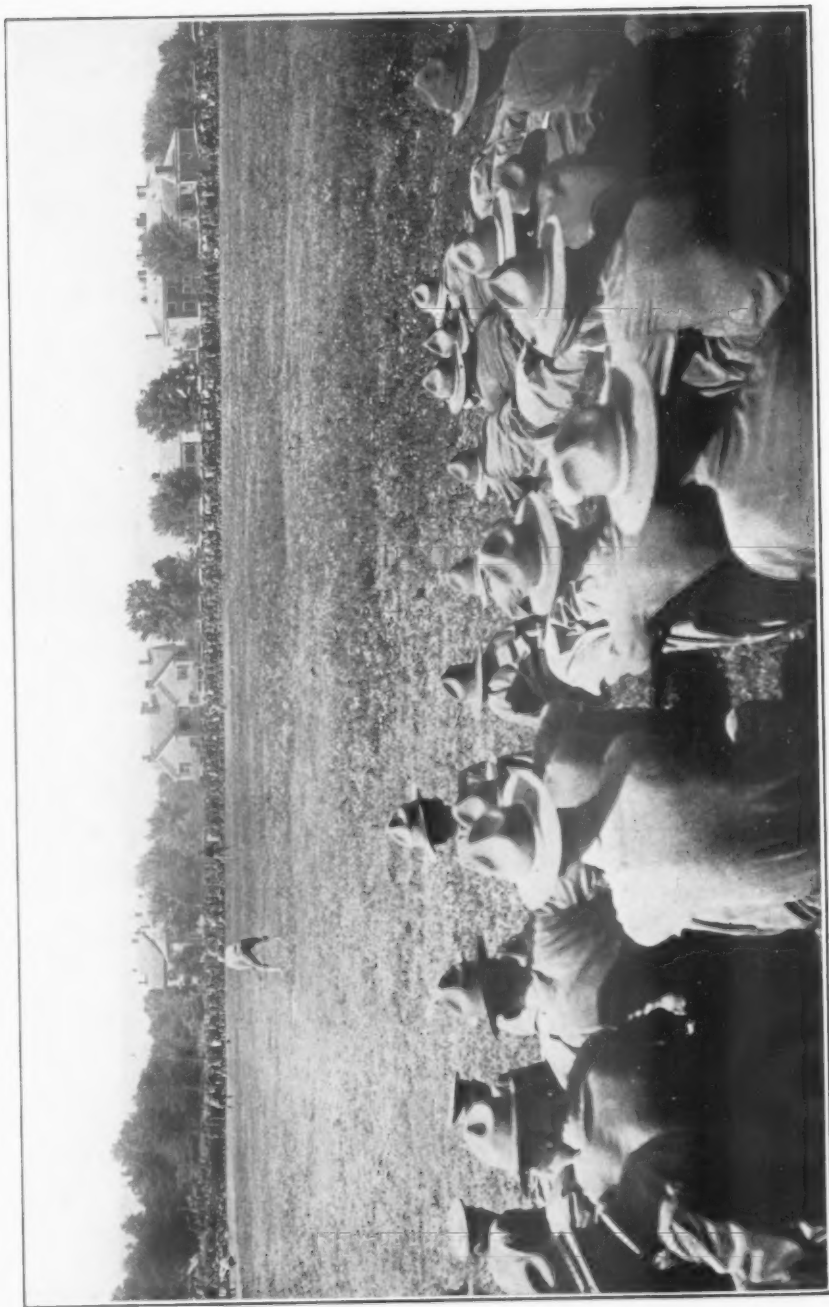
AFTER CHURCH



*Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia*

FORT OGLETHORPE vs. FORT McPHERSON, FOURTH OF JULY BASEBALL

WAR CAMP COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICE



Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia

BASEBALL, JULY THE FOURTH



WAR CAMP COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICE



*Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia*

SIXTH INFANTRY, REGULARS, BEATS THE ELEVENTH CAVALRY IN FINALS OF THE FOURTH OF JULY TUG-OF-WAR

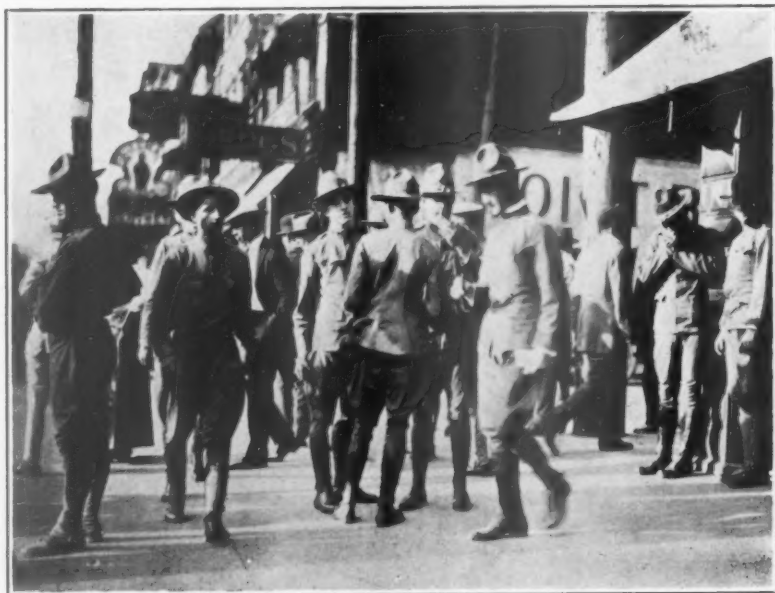


WAR CAMP COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICE



*Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia*

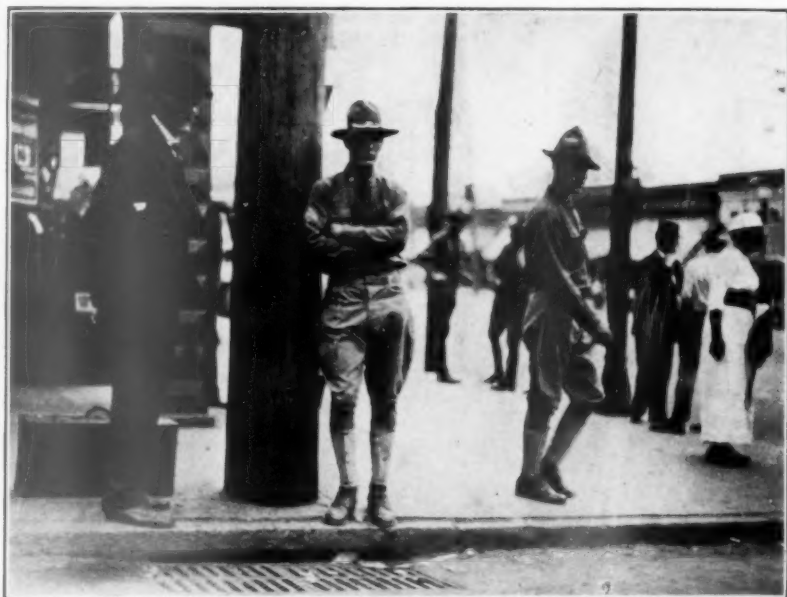
MULE RACE



*Chattanooga, Tennessee*

SEEKING RECREATION

WAR CAMP COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICE



*Chattanooga, Tennessee*

STREET CORNER "HANG OUT." SOLDIERS SEEKING  
RECREATION SATURDAY AFTERNOON



*Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia*

U. S. REGULARS IN TUG-OF-WAR

WAR CAMP COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICE



*Indianapolis, Indiana*

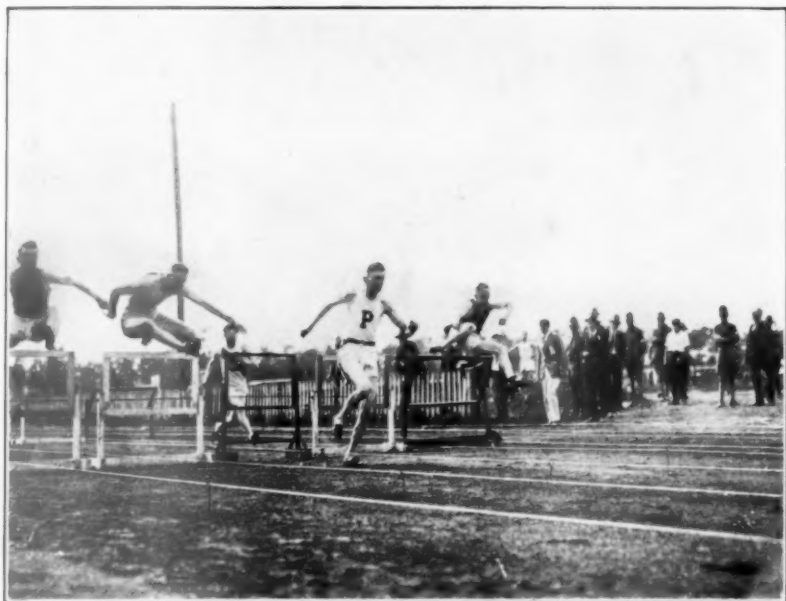
A FULL GRAND STAND FOR THE SOLDIERS' ATHLETIC  
EVENTS



*Indianapolis, Indiana*

TUG-OF-WAR

WAR CAMP COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICE



*Indianapolis, Indiana*

THE HURDLERS



*Indianapolis, Indiana*

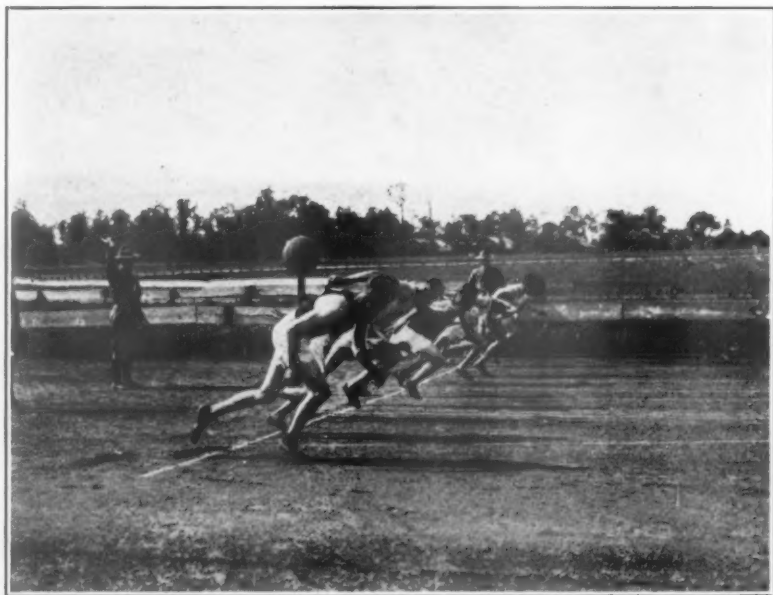
POLE VAULT

WAR CAMP COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICE



*Chattanooga, Tennessee*

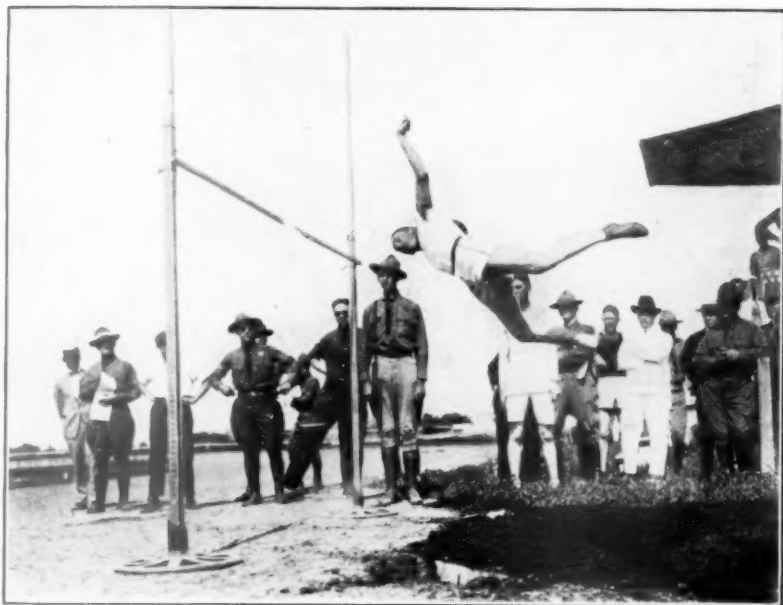
SATURDAY AFTERNOON



*Indianapolis, Indiana*

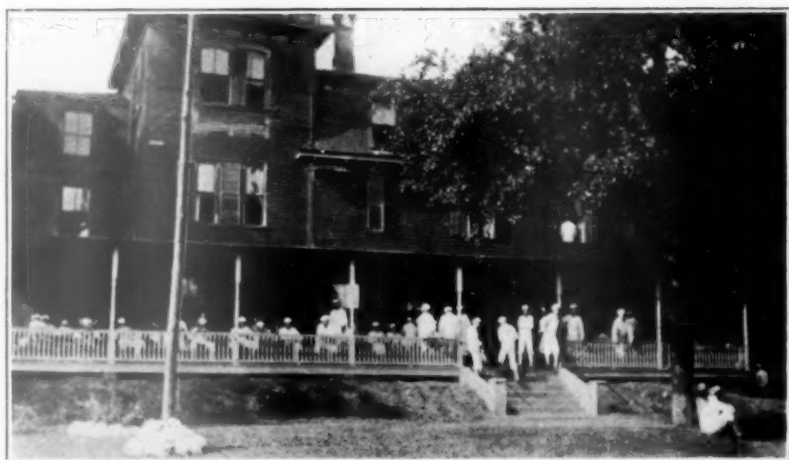
THE SPRINT

WAR CAMP COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICE



*Indianapolis, Indiana*

THE HIGH JUMP



*Coddington Point, Newport, Rhode Island*

THIS CLUBHOUSE OF FIFTY ROOMS WITH 125 ACRES OF LAND AND A LARGE GROVE OF TREES WAS GRANTED FOR RECREATION PURPOSES BY THE REALTY COMPANY WHICH OWNS IT. THE EXPENSES OF RUNNING THE CLUB, \$350 PER MONTH, HAVE BEEN UNDERWRITTEN BY A LOCAL ORGANIZATION, THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF THE WAR RECREATION SECRETARY

WAR CAMP COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICE



*Coddington Point, Newport, Rhode Island*

THE BOYS FURNISH THEIR OWN MUSIC AT CODDINGTON  
POINT

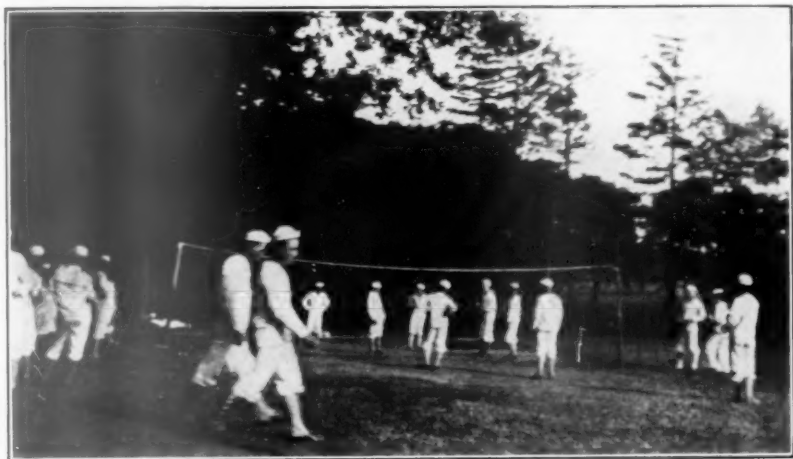


*Coddington Point, Newport, Rhode Island*

BRIDGE BUILT BY THE MEN, WITH PERMISSION OF THE  
GOVERNMENT, ACROSS THE CREEK WHICH SEPARATES  
THE CLUBHOUSE FROM THE TRAINING STATION



WAR CAMP COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICE



*Coddington Point, Newport, Rhode Island*

VOLLEY BALL COURT



*Coddington Point, Newport, Rhode Island*

WRITING LETTERS IN THE GROVE

WAR CAMP COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICE



*Coddington Point, Newport, Rhode Island*

NO DOUBT ABOUT THE POPULARITY OF THE CLUB  
ABOUT ONE HUNDRED HAMMOCKS HAVE BEEN HUNG IN THE GROVE FOR THE COMFORT OF THE MEN AND  
THEIR GUESTS

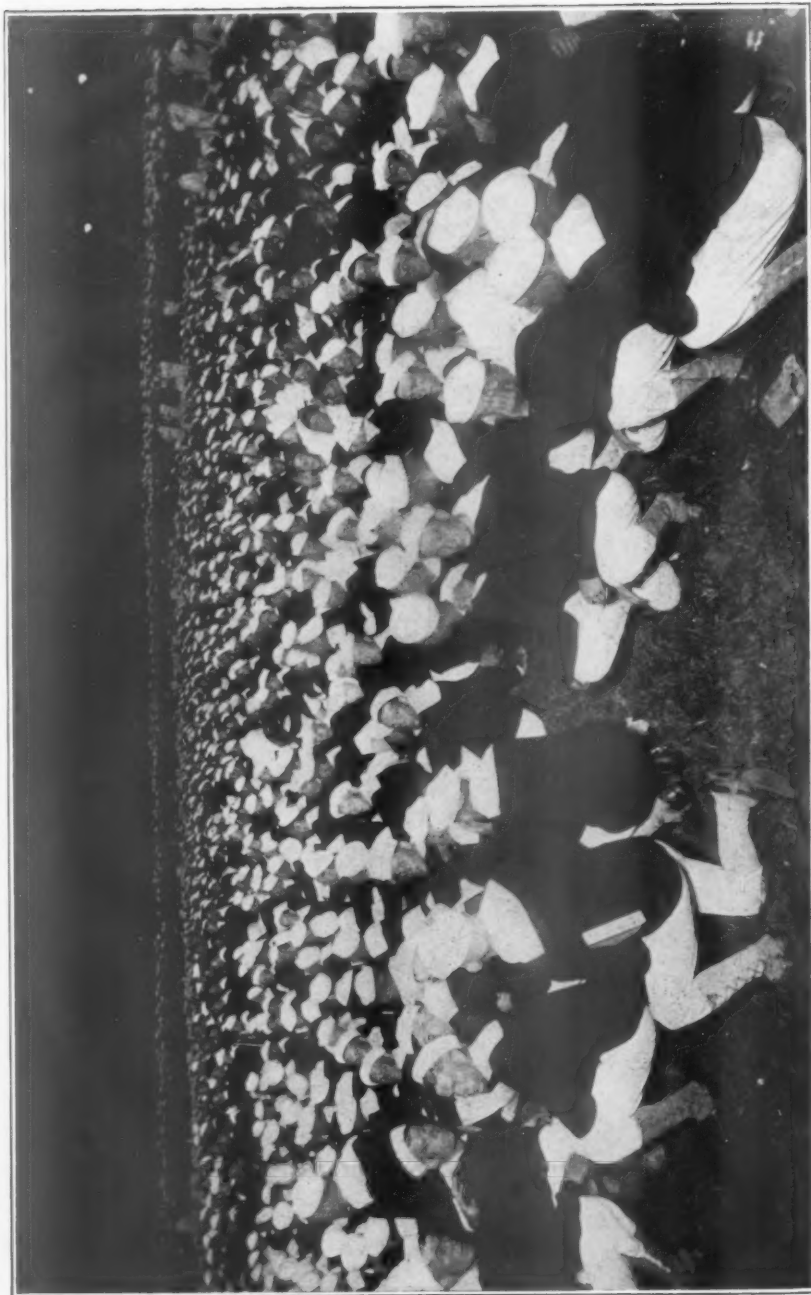
WAR CAMP COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICE



*Coddington Point, Newport, Rhode Island*

AN EVENING'S ENTERTAINMENT ON THE CLUBHOUSE GROUNDS

WAR CAMP COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICE

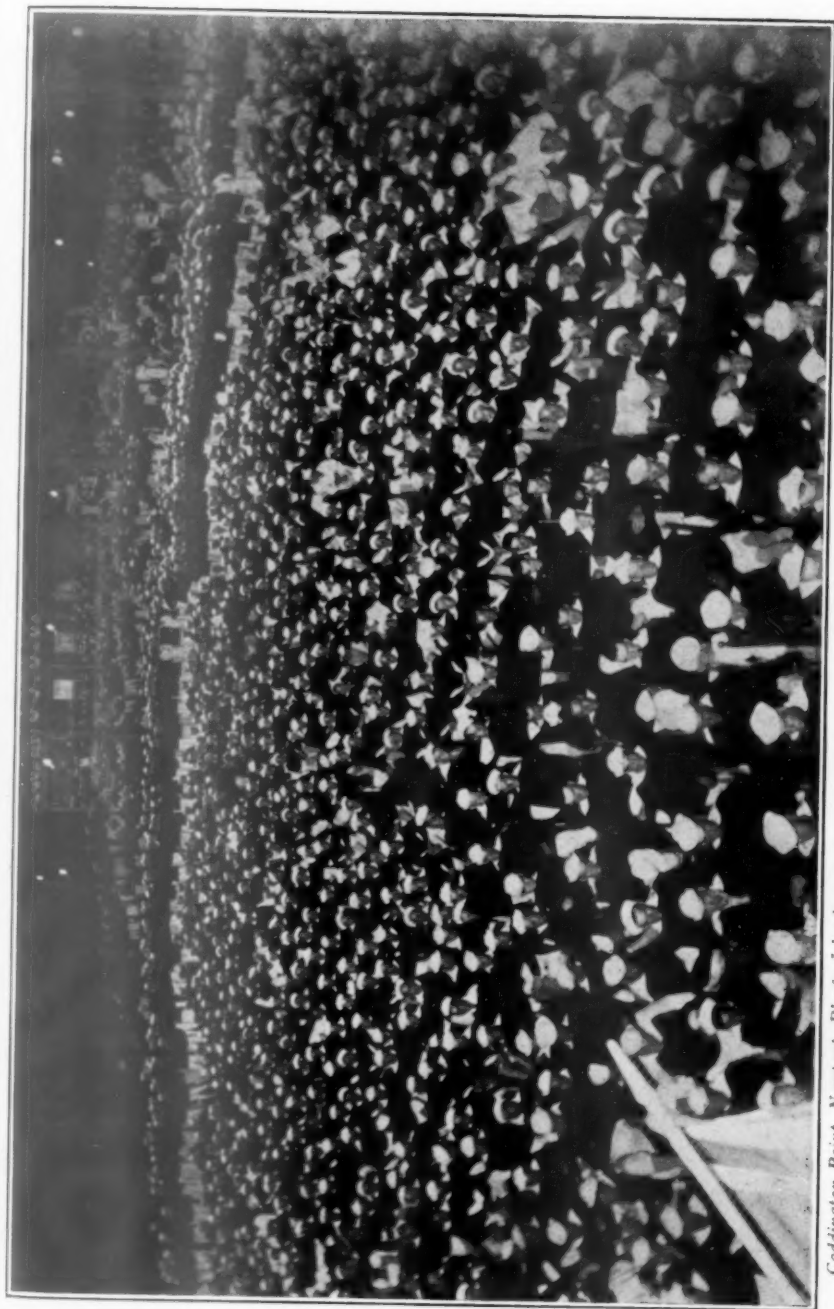


*Coddington Point, Newport, Rhode Island*

SOMETIMES FIVE THOUSAND SAILORS AND MARINES ARE TOGETHER AT ONE TIME ON THE  
CODDINGTON POINT CLUB GROUNDS

SOMETIMES FIVE THOUSAND SAILORS AND MARINES ARE TOGETHER AT ONE TIME ON THE  
Coddington Point Club Grounds

# WAR CAMP COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICE



*Coddington Point, Newport, Rhode Island*

THEIR OWN CLUBHOUSE

MOTION PICTURES have come to be the ideal form of entertainment for mixed audiences. The right kind of motion picture simplifies the problem of the Playground and Recreation Association in securing entertainment for communities in the neighborhood of training camps.

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"Knights of the Square Table".....	4 reels
"Farmer Alfalfa and His Wayward Pup".....	1 reel
"Your Flag and My Flag".....	
"The Making of 100-Ton Guns".....	1 reel
"What Form Means to an Athlete".....	
"The Story of the Willow Plate".....	1 reel

#### PROGRAM NO. 3

"Billy and the Big Stick".....	4 reels
"Two Kentucky Boys".....	2 reels
"Climbing Mt. Washington".....	
"Gathering Bananas and Cocoanuts".....	1 reel

#### PROGRAM NO. 4

"The Half-Back".....	3 reels
"The Boy Who Cried Wolf".....	2 reels
"Playing in Florida".....	
"Crystals in Formation".....	1 reel
"The Joy Rider of the Ocean".....	
"In Love's Laboratory".....	1 reel

*The "STAR SPANGLED BANNER," reproduced from the story by Mary Raymond Shipman Andrews, a patriotic film of no little merit, should prove ideal for this purpose.*



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In the great encampments, where the men are to be trained, modern recreation experts are to provide wholesome and attractive amusements for their leisure, so that when they come out of the army they will have no scars except those honorably won in warfare against the enemy of their country.

*Newton D. Baker*